

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 8

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 4

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 8—Relative to a Day of Remembrance.

[Filed with Secretary of State February 18, 1997.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 8, Honda and Takasugi. Day of Remembrance.

This measure would declare February 19, 1997, as a Day of Remembrance in order to increase public awareness of the events surrounding the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

WHEREAS, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1942, pursuant to which 120,000 Japanese Americans and legal resident aliens were incarcerated in internment camps during World War II; and

WHEREAS, The alleged basis for incarceration was military necessity; and

WHEREAS, President Gerald Ford formally rescinded Executive Order 9066 on February 19, 1976; and

WHEREAS, Congress adopted legislation on July 21, 1980, which was signed by President Jimmy Carter on July 31, 1980, to establish the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) to investigate the claim that the incarceration of Japanese Americans and legal resident aliens during World War II was justified by military necessity; and

WHEREAS, The CWRIC held 20 days of hearings on this matter and heard from over 750 witnesses; and

WHEREAS, The CWRIC published its findings in a report entitled "Personal Justice Denied"; and

WHEREAS, The CWRIC principal finding and conclusion was "the promulgation of Executive Order 9066 was not justified by military necessity, and the decision which followed from it—detention, ending detention, and ending exclusion—were not driven by analysis of military conditions. The broad historical causes which shaped these decisions were race prejudice, war hysteria, and a failure of political leadership"; and

WHEREAS, Congress adopted H.R. 442, the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (P.L. 100-383), which stated "for these fundamental violations of the basic civil liberties and constitutional rights of these individuals of Japanese ancestry, the Congress apologized on behalf of the Nation"; and

WHEREAS, President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 into law on August 10, 1988, at which time he proclaimed, “This is a great day for America”; and

WHEREAS, The Civil Liberties Act of 1988 established the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund, the purpose of which is “to sponsor research and public educational activities and to publish and distribute the hearings, findings, and recommendations of the CWRIC so that the events surrounding the exclusion, forced removal, and internment of civilians and permanent resident aliens of Japanese ancestry will be remembered, and so that the causes and circumstances of this and similar events may be illuminated and understood”; and

WHEREAS, The Civil Liberties Public Education Fund will sponsor a National Day of Remembrance on February 19, 1997, to reflect upon the effects of Executive Order 9066, the activities of the CWRIC, and the adoption of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of the National Day of Remembrance is to educate the public about the lessons learned from the internment to ensure that it never happens again; and

WHEREAS, Organizations will sponsor related activities in the following areas of California: Sacramento, San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Jose, San Diego, Gilroy, Monterey, San Benito, Salinas, and Watsonville; and

WHEREAS, February 19, 1997, will mark the 55-year anniversary of the date Executive Order 9066 was signed by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature of the State of California declares February 19, 1997, as a Day of Remembrance in this state in order to increase public awareness of the events surrounding the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature encourages the annual observance of this day in future years; and be it further

Resolved, The Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the Governor of the State of California.

